

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 14 are pending. Claims 1-3, 8-10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bergh et al. (US 2002/0170976). Claims 3-7, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bergh et al in combination with various secondary references. All of the outstanding rejections in this case are based primarily upon the Bergh reference, which has a priority date of Mar. 7, 2001. The present invention was filed less than one month later on April 2, 2001. Applicants submit herewith evidence in the form of a declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 establishing that the presently claimed invention was developed before the Mar. 7, 2001 priority date of the Bergh reference. Applicants respectfully submit that this Declaration overcomes the rejections based on Bergh, and the application is now in condition for allowance.

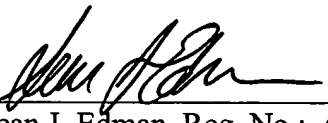
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and the Declaration submitted herewith, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

All communications in this case should be direct to the undersigned. If the Examiner believes a telephone discussion would be helpful to resolve any of the outstanding issue in this case, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

May 18, 2005
Date

By: 
Sean J. Edman, Reg. No.: 42,506
Telephone No.: (651) 575-1796

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833